

WILDFIRE IS COMING. IS YOUR HOME READY?



THOUSANDS OF WILDFIRES STRIKE CALIFORNIA EACH YEAR.

Protecting your home, family and the environment is easy. Create defensible space to slow or stop the spread of wildfire—either from direct flame or radiant heat. Here are more ways to protect your home:

ZONE 1

1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
4. Remove dead branches that hang over your roof. And keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
5. Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
6. Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
7. Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
8. Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

ZONE 2

9. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
10. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram below)
11. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram below)
12. Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches if erosion control is an issue.

ZONES 1 & 2

13. Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry.
14. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion—especially on steep slopes.

Additional safety steps and information on how to improve the survivability of your home during a wildfire can be found at:

ReadyForWildfire.org



PLANT AND TREE SPACING

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

VERTICAL SPACING

Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.

If shrubs are under trees, additional vertical space is needed. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the shrubs to the treetops like a ladder.



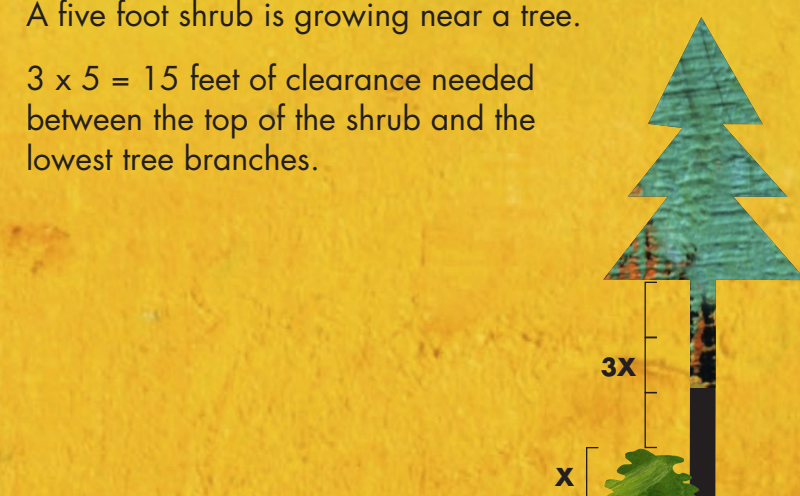
MINIMUM VERTICAL SPACING BETWEEN TREES AND SHRUBS

To determine the proper vertical space between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.

Example:

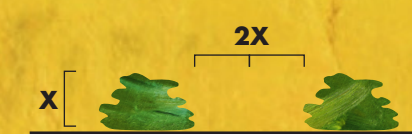
A five foot shrub is growing near a tree.

$3 \times 5 = 15$ feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.

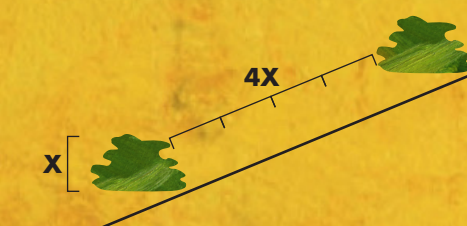


MINIMUM HORIZONTAL SPACING FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

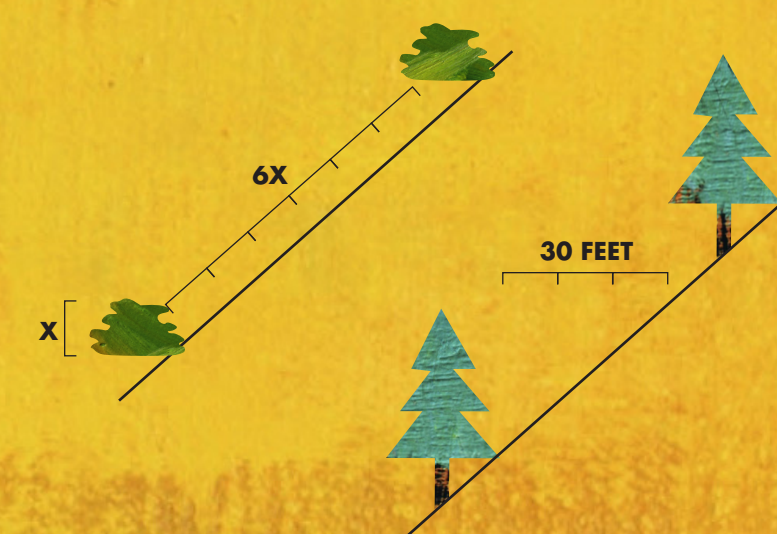
Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the diagrams below to determine spacing distance.



FLAT TO MILD SLOPE (LESS THAN 20%)



MILD TO MODERATE SLOPE (20%-40%)



MODERATE TO STEEP SLOPE (GREATER THAN 40%)